

A
DIALOGUE

BETWEEN

A LIEUTENANT
Of a MAN of WAR,

AND

A CAPTAIN
In the Land Service
Upon HALF-PAY.



L O N D O N:

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DIARY

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A DIALOGUE, &c.

LIEUTENANT.



YES, the *Uniform* as you call it, is well enough — But I don't like it for all that. — When I wore my *own Cloaths* I thought myself my *own Man* : But he that wears a *Livery* is not only a *Servant*, but may be a *Slave*. — What makes the People call a Soldier *Lobster* ! But because they look upon him as a *Deferter* from *them*, as a *Run-away* from their Colours, and I should be loth to be call'd *Blue-Bottle* for the same Reason. — Besides I don't like new Fashions — especially such as have neither Rhime nor Reason to countenance them. The Fashion when I came into the Service, was to fight our Enemies till they had their Belly full of Fighting; and when they cry'd for Quarter to give it them on our own Terms, not theirs. Will any Body say That this Fashion has been alter'd for the Better? And yet now when all
Ser-

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Service is at an End, we must be subject to new Lords, new Laws, new Discipline, and the Lord knows what besides.

CAPTAIN.

We are as fore in that Place as you can be for your Lives——In Time of Service, no doubt, Terror must produce Discipline: But when the Time of Service is over, that which was call'd Discipline becomes downright Slavery.

LIEUT.

Aye: But that downright Slavery is now like to be the Establishment according to L---.

CAPT.

Good God! And is this the merciful Provision to be made for us! Is this the Regard shewn to the Father of his People, who recommended us to the Care of *St. Stephen*, and will *St. Stephen* oppose and get the better of *St. George*?

LIEUT.

I don't know any Thing of the Saints you talk of——But I have heard of certain Persons call'd the Two B——rs, can out-vote all the Saints in the anack.

CAPT.

CAPT.

So much the worse for us. We have got nothing but Blows by the War, and broken Commissions by the Peace, whilst you have got immense Fortunes by your Prizes.

LIEUT.

Indeed some of us have had more Luck than they deserv'd, and some less—But if the War had been continued in our Element, look you, we might all have been rich—In another Year we should have swept the Sea—Plague on such P—M—k—rs—But so much for that—We are to have Thanksgivings and Fireworks, and that is enough—Not that I value Money more than another Man: But the more one has, the better one can afford to be honest.--A poor Man in such Times as these, can scarce help being a Rogue. But what mads me is, that *some* of those who have got most by the Service, should be most officious to drive every Man of Spirit out of it.

CAPT.

Aye; but then you have your *Norris's*, your *Warrens*, your *Smiths*, *Lees*,
Vernons,

Vernons, Matthews's, &c. to make you proud of doing so—Our Lords and Masters are most of them true *Cappadocians*, such as chuse to be Slaves, and for that Reason, will suffer no-body else to be free.

LIEUT.

True. But as the Man says in the Play, *Is there not a Cause?* They have Governments and Garrisons in their Eye, and we had a Promise of being admitted joint Sharers--But no Matter---Promises, they say, are made to be broke.

CAPT.

But what have we Subalterns to do with *Governments*, except to obey them? In short, honest Friend, the *Douceurs* of either Service, few can taste of—But all are involv'd in the Severities—and that's the Point now before us—and, instead of considering each other any longer, as Rivals, we ought to join Hands as *Fellow-Sufferers*, and endeavour as far as we lawfully may, to work out our own Deliverance, that we may be in a Condition to protect the Commerce and Freedom of our Country.

LIEUT.

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LIEUT.

To *protect*, Man! to *pray* you mean;
for that is all that will be in your Power,
if these new Regulations take Place. Ri-
diculous! How can Men, who have lost
their own Freedom, protect the Freedom
of others.

CAPT.

We have fought for universal Liberty.

LIEUT.

True; and are in a fair Way to lose
our own; Is it not so? And if our Spi-
rits are once broke, we must fight for any
Cause, or against any Cause, like true
Janisaries with Bashaws at our Heads,
who, in case of the least Demur, for we
must not dare to think of Disobedience,
will be sure to tuck us up without Mercy.

CAPT.

Damn'd hard!

LIEUT.

Damn'd hard indeed! But what is still
worse, we must not dare to say so, when
these intended Regulations are once
establish'd.

CAPT.

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CAPT.

Why so my Friend?

LIEUT.

Because it may be interpreted as *tending* to an Affront of *somebody*, or as *tending* to *something* that may *tend* to Mutiny ; for the Word *Tending* may be wire drawn to *any Thing* ; and so, Sir, to say such Usage is hard, is to complain, Complaints tend to Mutiny, and those that mutiny are to be shot.

CAPT.

Shot!

LIEUT.

Aye, shot, Sir ! that or *worse* is the Punishment annex'd to almost every Clause, Sir.

CAPT.

Why, what can be worse than Death?

LIEUT.

Torture---at least there may be some Difference in the Manner of dying.---
The Word *Lawful*, I am told, was omitted, and to be shot or *otherwise* treated,

as

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as a Court-Martial shall think proper, inserted in the proposed Articles.

CAPT.

A Court Martial will not proceed to Torture, Sir.

LIEUT.

I do not say they will——But I would not have it in their Power---Nor in the Power of any Body to force them——For aught I know the Court itself may be subject to the Orders of their *Betters*; and if they do not obey implicitly in their judicial Capacity, may be liable to be try'd, sentenced and *shot* themselves.

CAPT.

Indeed, it would have been but merciful to have provided against the possible Abuse of such unlimited Power.----However, a Man can be shot but once, Lieutenant.

LIEUT.

But he may be tried twice, or oftener for the same Fact, or have his Sentence *revised*.

B

CAPT.

CAPT.

Surely this would not be suffered out of the Army.

LIEUT.

No; it has never yet been suffered, and the Law declares it never shall. — But when the Law is dispensed with in one Fundamental, may it not in more? May it not be found out, under some *future* Administration, that some more *speedy* and *exemplary* Punishment than the Laws allow, may be necessary in other Cases? May it not be found out, that Courts-Martial are the best fitted for *Dispatch* of any? and that Soldiers and Scamen make the best Executioners?

CAPT.

I would not, for the World, sheath my Sword in the Bowels of my Country; nor will I ever encourage Tumults.

LIEUT.

And I would sooner be hang'd on the Yard-Arm---But you observe, I do not speak of these Times and under this Government, but of what may be the unhappy Consequences of these Regulations to Posterity.

CAPT.

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CAPT.

Perhaps they may be withdrawn.

LIEUT.

I wish there were any Grounds for so good an Expectation. *You* may, indeed, have an annual Contest, whilst there is any Virtue left, for the Removal of them; their Existence, as well as *your own*, being suffered only from one Year to another. But *our* Hardships may be as perpetual as *our* Institution; which, however, I own, cannot be longer than the Life of Commerce already in a Consumption.

CAPT.

It is well there is one Way left for a Military Man to escape.

LIEUT.

And pray, what is that my good Captain?

CAPT.

To *resign*.

LIEUT.

But even that will not be in your
Power.

Power. Your Resignation may be refused.—And further, let me give you the Advice of a Friend, to be very cautious of what you shall say; for if it should be construed to *tend* to Mutiny, as I said before, you not only forfeit your *own* Life, but the Life of any *other* Soldier, who shall happen to be present, and neglect to divulge it.

CAPT.

Why, Sir, can any Man's Person be more sacred than that of the King, or the Heir apparent? Or, can the *Misprision* of any Thing be worse than the Misprision of Treason? And is that more than a Misdemeanor, or is such a Misdemeanor punishable with Death?

LIEUT.

No, Sir, nor can I conceive what Advantage you are likely to reap by appealing to the Maxims of Common Law, when you are not to be tried in *Westminster-Hall*, or at the *Old Bailey*, but by a Court-Martial.

CAPT.

At length, then, I have discovered an Advantage from my Misfortunes, to which I was a Stranger before.

LIEUT.

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LIEUT.

And pray, what may that be, Sir?

CAPT.

Why, you know, *Jack*, that I am *only*
an Officer upon *Half-pay*.

LIEUT.

'Sdeath! you know nothing of the Bill
we are talking of.

CAPT.

Why, you know *Jack*, I am but just
come to Town.

LIEUT.

Know then, my dear Captain, that you
are subject to the same Discipline and
Command, as if upon *whole Pay*.

CAPT.

What! with little Money and with no
Men! impossible!

LIEUT.

If it is impossible, Impossibilities are
true; that's all, Boy—But you will easily
perceive the Advantage of these very
wise Regulations; for, besides the Hopes
of

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of an Almightyness of Power to *somebody*, it secures all manner of Service and Obedience every where, and upon every Occasion. No Opposition, not even in a Whisper from a Military Man for ever.

CAPT.

Why, then, how happy are the common People, and they who have nothing to do with the *Fleet* or the *Navy*?

LIEUT.

Not quite so happy as you may imagine. Did you never hear the Story of a certain one-ey'd Monster of old, and a certain *Greek*, whose Name was *Ulysses*? You must know this Man and his Mess-mates fell into the Clutches of this Monster, who fatten'd them for his own eating, and kept *Ulysses* himself for the last. Now the Happiness of *Ulysses*, during this Interval, was just the same as that of the People, in case this blessed Regulation takes Place—But as *Ulysses*, by his Wisdom, delivered both his Mess-mates and himself, I hope they will have the Grace to do the same.

CAPT.

I am convinced they have two good
Friends,

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Friends, the King, and his Royal Highness the Prince of *Wales* ; and I wish, with all my Heart, it may be in their Power to assist them.

LIEUT.

Amen.

F I N I S.



(11)
Friends the King and his Royal High-
ness the Prince of Wales; and I wish
with all my Heart, it may be in their
Power to assist them.

ALBION

F I M I S



